

THE STATE OF NEW YORK 1915(b) PROGRAM FACT SHEET

Project Name:	New York Non-Emergency Transportation Program (NY10.R01)
Proposal Approval:	January 17, 1996
Proposal Expiration:	January 16, 1998
Proposal Renewal Submission:	December 1, 1997
Proposal Renewal Approval:	December 21, 1999
Proposal Renewal Expiration:	December 20, 2001
Proposal Renewal Approval:	November 12, 2002
Proposal Amendment Approval:	June 24, 2003

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

The State of New York submitted a proposal under 1915(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (the Act) to provide non-emergency transportation to Medicaid beneficiaries. On January 17, 1996 the State's application was approved. The waiver allows counties in New York to design and administer their own transportation program under the guidance and monitoring of the State Medicaid Agency. In its application, the State also relies on authority under 1915(b)(4) of the Act which allows the State to selectively contract with a limited number of providers in order to provide adequate access to services while preventing inappropriate and unnecessary utilization and reducing costs.

Otsego County submitted an amendment, containing a request to participate in the New York non-emergency transportation program. Currently, twelve of the State's 62 counties (Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Chataauqua, Chenango, Greene, Herkimer, Orange, Ontario, Cortland, Chemung, and Oswego) have chosen to participate in the transportation waiver to date. Each county in the State is referred to as a district, except for the five counties encompassed by the City of New York, which as a group is one district. Each district has been delegated by the State the authority to administer its own medical transportation program.

The population to be served under the Otsego County waiver amendment includes all Medicaid eligible beneficiaries in the County. This is in alignment with the State's waiver program that also includes all Medicaid eligible beneficiaries in the State, except where the cost of transportation of a recipient is included in the rate reimbursed to the service provider. Including Otsego County, if all counties are operational the monthly average of total eligibles would be 247,890.

According to the most recent independent evaluation of the waiver, the State's initiatives have proven successful in meeting cost containment needs while maintaining access to care and quality of transportation services that are comparable to that prior to the waiver.

HEATH CARE DELIVERY:

Under this authority, the district makes arrangements for the availability of all modes of transportation, including arrangements with providers of transportation; and authorizes payment for the individual transports which the district deems appropriate and necessary. Each district must submit a detailed plan to the State outlining how the district will assure necessary transportation for all modes of transportation; the

district's prior authorization process; and the complaint procedure in place for recipients. Through open procurement, Otsego County selected a single transportation coordinator. Otsego County pays a negotiated yearly aggregate flat fee to the transportation coordinator for the provision of timely and appropriate modes of transportation to Medicaid recipients.

BENEFIT PACKAGE:

Non-emergency transportation only.

EXCLUDED SERVICES:

Not Applicable

LOCK IN PROVISION:

Not Applicable

ENROLLMENT BROKER:

Not Applicable

COST EFFECTIVENESS/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The State requires that district applications for contract bids propose at least a 5 percent savings from actual expenses. The coordinator agrees to accept a flat aggregate yearly amount of money, which represents the costs of arranging for, and reimbursing the costs of those transportation services approved under the waiver for all Medicaid recipients in the district for all districts except Oswego. For Oswego non-emergency ambulance, wheelchair van, taxi and bus transports, reimbursement is made at a set amount per one-way trip basis, currently \$21 per one way trip. On a monthly basis, the coordinator vouchers the district for every transport delivered, at the \$21 amount.

Most contracts with coordinators are for 3 years, although some contracts may be for less or more years. The contract typically allows a cost of living annual increase. The fiscal impact of a significant change in utilization is considered in future years. No change is made to the contracted amount during the year of operation. However, if an unexpected change in utilization occurs that significantly impacts a contractor's ability to provide services, the state will work with districts and their contractor to renegotiate a rate that assures access, but is below what would have been paid in fee-for-service.

During the last three year waiver period, the evaluation determined that the State saved \$7.6 million. Of the seven initiatives evaluated, only Chautauqua County's first full year of waiver experience did not reach a 5 percent savings, a benchmark set by the Department of Health. However, in subsequent years the county showed sufficient savings in excess of the targeted five percent. Orange, Herkimer and Chenango Counties all showed cost savings in excess of 10 percent for all three years of cost data analyzed. During this waiver period, with the addition of Otsego County, the state expects a total savings of \$6.27 million with a total projected cost of \$34.2 million.

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